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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/562,339	12/23/2005	Yasuyuki Tanoue	450100-05124	4132

7590 08/12/2008
William S Frommer
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EXAMINER

AURORA, REENA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2862

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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08/12/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/562,339	Applicant(s) TANOUE, YASUYUKI	
	Examiner Reena Aurora	Art Unit 2862	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☒ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 10 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 December 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/23/05, 4/23/08</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

This application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters:

Claim Objections

Claim 9 is objected to because of the following informalities: line 8, the phrase “the inputted image” lacks antecedent basis. Appropriate correction is required.

Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 25 USPQ 74, 453 O.G. 213, (Comm’r Pat. 1935).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1 – 10 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: As to claims 1 – 8, the prior art fails to show an imaging apparatus comprising an image compositor which makes the displayer concurrently present, in a composite manner, the image taken by the imager, and at least one image respectively taken by and transmitted from each of at least a part of the at least one external imaging apparatus and received by the communicator; and image selector which selects a desired image among the image taken by the imager and the at least one received

image. These features taken together with the other limitations of the claim render the claims allowable over prior art.

As to claim 9, the prior art fails to show an image recording apparatus comprising composite image generator which generates a composite image where the inputted image and the at least one image received by the image receiver are concurrently presented on the displayer in a composite manner; image selector which selects a desired image among the inputted image and the at least one received image. These features taken together with the other limitations of the claim render the claim allowable over prior art.

As to claim 10, the prior art fails to show a method for recording images wherein compositing the image taken by the each imaging apparatus, and the at least one image respectively received from the at least a part of the Other imaging apparatuses, to concurrently present the image taken by the each imaging apparatus and the at least one received image on a screen; and selecting a desired image from the image taken by the each imaging apparatus and the at least one image taken by each of the at least a part of the other imaging apparatuses, and recording the signal of the selected image. These features taken together with the other limitations of the claim render the claim allowable over prior art.

Prior Art of Record

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Baker et al. (20060104541) is cited for its disclosure of a method for producing seamless composite images.

Foote et al. (7,015,954) is cited for its disclosure of an automatic video system using multiple cameras.

Allen et al. (65,572,248) is cited for its disclosure of teleconferencing method and system for providing face to face non animated teleconference environment.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Reena Aurora whose telephone number is 571-272-2263. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 7:00 - 3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, P. Assouad can be reached on 571-272-2210. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Reena Aurora

/Reena Aurora/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2862